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cont'd*

which is capable of affecting one or more physical characteristics of a plant into which the nucleic acid is introduced, the physical characteristics being selected from vernalization response, flowering time, leaf size and/or shape or shade avoidance response or has promoter and/or regulatory function.

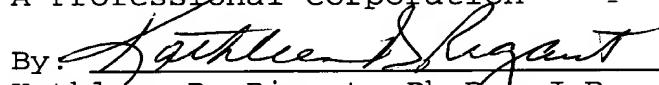
106. A method according to claim 105 which method comprises causing or allowing transcription from said nucleic acid thereby reducing VRN2 expression by co-suppression.

REMARKS

The purpose of this preliminary amendment is insert an abstract of the disclosure into the specification and to reinstate claims canceled in the first preliminary amendment.

Favorable consideration leading to prompt allowance of the present application is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
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